

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

COME-00 MC-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-05 (ISO) W

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R 191512Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 283

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 0776

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, ETRD, SZ

SUBJECT: SALE TO SWITZERLAND OF F-5E/E/F AIRCRAFT

1. AIR ATTACHE HAS INFORMED DOD OF DESIRE CHARLES GROS-
SENBACHER, CHIEF SWISS ARMAMENTS AGENCY (GRD), CALL ON
DEPUTY DEFENSE SECRETARY CLEMENTS DURING MARCH 17-18 VISIT
WASHINGTON. GROSSENBACHER WILL ALSO BE VISITING NORTHROP
AND GE WHILE IN U.S. WASHINGTON SCHEDULE BEING ARRANGED
BY SWISS EMBASSY WHICH MAY ALSO SEEK APPOINTMENTS WITH
OTHERS BESIDES CLEMENTS.

2. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT ONE OF MAIN REASONS FOR GROS-
SENBACHER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON AT THIS TIME IS EFFORT BE
ABLE ASSURE FEDERAL COUNCIL AND AT LATER DATE PARLIAMENT
THAT BEFORE MAKING MAJOR ARMS PURCHASE DECISION SWISS HAVE
THOROUGHLY EXAMINED ALL POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITIES TO STRUCTURE
PURCHASE IN MANNER THAT WOULD ALSO BRING BENEFITS TO SWISS
INDUSTRY AND ECONOMY. WE BELIEVE SWISS OFFICIALS HAVE
CONCLUDED THAT ANY KIND OF CO-PRODUCTION/OR INDUSTRIAL
PARTICIPATION WOULD SO RAISE AIRCRAFT PURCHASE COSTS AS TO
MAKE NO SENSE. WE WILL BE ABLE TO CHECK OUR UNDERSTANDING
DURING MARCH 3 VISIT TO BERN OF LETTER OF OFFER TEAM.

3. HOWEVER, WE CONTINUE TO HEAR RUMBLINGS THAT SOME
BRANCHES SWISS INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT FEEL THERE SHOULD BE
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SOME SORT OF QUID FOR SWISS PURCHASE QUO. THUS POSSIBLE

CHEESE COUNTERVAILING DUTY ACTION IS OFTEN MENTIONED. ALSO OF INTEREST ON PART OF SOME IS TO SEEK UNDERTAKING ON PART OF USG AND/OR INDUSTRY TO INCREASE PROCUREMENT IN SWITZERLAND. WE HAVE TRIED DISCOURAGE SUCH REASONING AS NON-STARTER BUT IT POSSIBLE THAT GROSSENBACHER MAY RAISE THIS IDEA WITH CLEMENTS OR OTHERS WHILE IN WASHINGTON. WE HOPE HE CAN BE TOLD OF USG PROCUREMENT POLICIES WITH EMPHASIS ON OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO QUALIFIED SWISS SUPPLIERS. WE HOPE HE COULD ALSO BE GIVEN SOME FIGURES ON PRESENT LEVEL OF DOD PURCHASING IN SWITZERLAND. CERTAINLY HE SHOULD BE TOLD THAT ANY PRIVATE SECTOR PROCUREMENT IN SWITZERLAND IS MATTER BETWEEN PRIVATE PARTIES; SWISS ARE HIGHLY CAPABLE SALESMEN AIDED BY SWISS EMBASSY AND CONSULATES IN U.S.

4. WE CONTINUE TO THINK ULTIMATE DECISION RE F-5E WILL BE BASED ON BUDGETARY/COST CONSIDERATIONS AND WE STILL EXPECT THIS DECISION TO BE IN FAVOR OF F-5E.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, MILITARY PROCUREMENT, AIRCRAFT SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 FEB 1975
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BERN00776
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750059-0782
From: BERN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750233/aaaabdjy.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SALE TO SWITZERLAND OF F-5E/E/F AIRCRAFT
TAGS: MASS, ETRD, SZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006